

A. H. BELO  
CORPORATION

McGaughy, Lauren <lmcgaughy@dallasnews.com>

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## Request for comment: Prison conditions

7 messages

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**McGaughy, Lauren** <lmcgaughy@dallasnews.com>  
To: Jeremy Desel <Jeremy.Desel@tdcj.texas.gov>

Mon, Dec 17, 2018 at 2:26 PM

Dear Jeremy,

I wanted to ask two questions regarding the temperature readings at state jails and prisons. According to the Pack Unit lawsuit and readings TDCJ provided to The News, the agency was taking measurements inside facilities prior to being sued. Exactly when did the agency stop taking these measurements? And why? You have previously stated it is because accurate readings would be difficult to get. But experts — including the state climatologist — refute these claims.

Additionally, I'd like to repeat my request to clarify the location of the "Venus Unit."

Thanks,  
Lauren

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**The Dallas Morning News**  
dallasnews.com

**Lauren McGaughy**  
The Dallas Morning News  
State Capitol Reporter  
512-423-6024  
@lmcgaughy

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**Jeremy Desel** <Jeremy.Desel@tdcj.texas.gov>  
To: "McGaughy, Lauren" <lmcgaughy@dallasnews.com>

Mon, Dec 17, 2018 at 4:13 PM

Lauren,

Working on getting you an updated statement on temp measurments but the answer to the Venus thing is that is the Estes Unit and it is IN Venus TX.

JD

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**From:** McGaughy, Lauren [mailto:[lmcgaughy@dallasnews.com](mailto:lmcgaughy@dallasnews.com)]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 17, 2018 2:26 PM  
**To:** Jeremy Desel <[Jeremy.Desel@tdcj.texas.gov](mailto:Jeremy.Desel@tdcj.texas.gov)>  
**Subject:** Request for comment: Prison conditions

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**Jeremy Desel** <Jeremy.Desel@tdcj.texas.gov>  
To: "McGaughy, Lauren" <lmcgaughy@dallasnews.com>

Wed, Dec 19, 2018 at 1:47 PM

"We record official temperatures outside for consistency and following the example of the National Weather Service. It is very difficult to record interior ambient temps because you cannot assume that one location is exactly the same as any other."

**Jeremy Desel**

Director, Communications

Texas Department of Criminal Justice

(O) 936-437-6052

[Jeremy.desel@tdcj.texas.gov](mailto:Jeremy.desel@tdcj.texas.gov)

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**From:** McGaughy, Lauren [<mailto:lmcgaughy@dallasnews.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 17, 2018 2:26 PM  
**To:** Jeremy Desel <[Jeremy.Desel@tdcj.texas.gov](mailto:Jeremy.Desel@tdcj.texas.gov)>  
**Subject:** Request for comment: Prison conditions

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Dear Jeremy,

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**McGaughy, Lauren** <[lmcgaughy@dallasnews.com](mailto:lmcgaughy@dallasnews.com)>

Wed, Dec 19, 2018 at 2:27 PM

To: Jeremy Desel <Jeremy.Desel@tdcj.texas.gov>

Cc: Jamie Hancock <jdhancock@dallasnews.com>, "Nix, Mede" <mnix@dallasnews.com>

Jeremy,

Thanks. I want to let you know that The Dallas Morning News will be saying the prisons agency did not respond to questions about 1) when they stopped taking temperatures indoors, 2) why and 3) to respond to expert statements refuting your claims that accurate heat readings cannot be taken indoors.

Thanks very much.

Regards,

Lauren

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**Jeremy Desel** <Jeremy.Desel@tdcj.texas.gov>

Wed, Dec 19, 2018 at 2:35 PM

To: "McGaughy, Lauren" <lmcgaughy@dallasnews.com>

Cc: Jamie Hancock <jdhancock@dallasnews.com>, "Nix, Mede" <mnix@dallasnews.com>

For the record we did respond. That is our response.

Sent from my iPhone

[Quoted text hidden]

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**McGaughy, Lauren** <lmcgaughy@dallasnews.com>

Wed, Dec 19, 2018 at 2:38 PM

To: Jeremy Desel <Jeremy.Desel@tdcj.texas.gov>

Cc: Jamie Hancock <jdhancock@dallasnews.com>, "Nix, Mede" <mnix@dallasnews.com>

Okay. You did not provide answers to those questions.

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**Jeremy Desel** <Jeremy.Desel@tdcj.texas.gov>

Wed, Dec 19, 2018 at 2:44 PM

To: "McGaughy, Lauren" <lmcgaughy@dallasnews.com>

Cc: Jamie Hancock <jdhancock@dallasnews.com>, "Nix, Mede" <mnix@dallasnews.com>

I did and you received that response.

Sent from my iPhone

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